

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/788,443

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

VAN DER MEER ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Authorized Examiner's amendment dated 08/8/07 (respectively).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-2, 4-22, and 24-31 are allowed, renumbered as claims 1-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Authorized Examiner's amendment dated 6/28/07 & 08/8/07 (respectively).
- As the results of authorized Examiner's amendment, claims 3 & 23 have been canceled; claims 1-2, 4-22, 24-31 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-2, 4-22, and 24-31 are allowed, renumbered as claims 1-29.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts (US 5615015 to Krist et al and EP 628357A1 to Hadewe) of record teach a method for generating and finishing documents, but the prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest "driving instructions for generating documents comprise instructions for printing documents are fed to a printing apparatus, and wherein said driving instructions for finishing documents for finishing documents comprise instructions for finishing physical documents printed by said printing apparatus are fed, separately from said driving instructions for generating documents, to a system for finishing physical documents, and wherein documents are finished by said finishing apparatus in accordance with said instructions for finishing physical documents" and in combinations of other features as cited in independent claims 1, 22, and 31 (renumbered as claims 1, 21, and 29). The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features cited in claims 1, 22, and 31 (renumbered as claims 1, 21, and 29).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

Art Unit: 2625

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabriel Garcia". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alan Kopecki on 8/7/07.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating and finishing documents, comprising:
 - converting a first data file in a first format, which data file describes the content of at least one document, into a second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document;
 - processing said second data file into a processed second data file, wherein said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document, and wherein said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document;
 - thereafter driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; and
 - generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving instructions;

wherein said driving instructions for generating documents comprise instructions for printing documents are fed to a printing apparatus, and wherein said driving instructions for finishing documents comprise instructions for finishing physical documents printed by said printing apparatus are fed, separately from said driving instructions for generating documents, to a system for finishing physical documents, and wherein documents are finished by said finishing apparatus in accordance with said instructions for finishing physical documents.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein said documents are delivered from said printing apparatus directly to said system for finishing physical documents.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein said documents are fed one by one from said printing apparatus to said system for finishing physical documents.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for generating and finishing documents, comprising a data processor structure and equipment for generating and finishing documents, said data processor structure being arranged for:

converting a first data file in a first format for describing the content of at least one document, into a second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document; and

processing said second data file into a processed second data file, wherein said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document and wherein said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document;

wherein said data processor structure and said equipment for generating and finishing documents are operatively connected for driving said equipment for generating and finishing documents in accordance with driving instructions from said processed second data file; and

wherein said equipment for generating and finishing documents is arranged for generating and finishing documents in accordance with said driving instructions;

wherein said data processor structure comprises a first data processor station and a second data processor station, which data processor stations are mutually coupled for transferring data from said first data processor station to said second data processor station;

wherein said first data processor station is arranged for providing a first data file in at least one first format, for describing the content of documents; for converting said first data file in said first format into said second data file in said second format; and for transferring said second data file to said second data processor station;

wherein said second data processor station is arranged for said processing of said second data file into a processed second data file and is operatively connected with said equipment for generating and finishing documents for driving said equipment.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein said first data processor station is free of software adapted to said equipment for finishing documents.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer program structure embodied on a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for converting a first data file in a first format for describing the content of at least one document into a second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document; and

instructions for processing said second data file into a processed second data file, wherein said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document and wherein said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document.

wherein said driving instructions for generating at least one document comprise instructions for printing at least one document and which are adapted to be sent to a printing apparatus,

wherein said driving instructions for finishing said at least one document comprise instructions for finishing a physical document printed by said printing apparatus and which are adapted to be sent, separately from said driving instructions for generating said at least one document, to a system for finishing physical documents.